

REMARKS

Claims 2-4 and 6-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 6 and 9-11 are amended, claims 1 and 5 are canceled.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's assertion that claims 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 2003-068334 (hereinafter "334") in view of International Publication No. WO00/36482 (hereinafter "482") and further in view of International Publication No. WO01/59537 (hereinafter "537").

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended and rewritten in independent form. Additionally, claims 2 and 9 have been amended to change their dependency to claim 10, and claim 6 has been amended to change its dependency to claim 11. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been obviated by this Amendment. Independent claims 10 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, dependent claims 2-4, and 6-9 depend, either directly, or indirectly, from the independent claims. Therefore, the dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-4 and 6-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 27, 2005

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